

BESIEGING ROOMS IN THE MAJESTIC.

Deputy Sheriffs Trying to Seize
the Chattels of C. Leigh-
ton Foxwell.

Mrs. Winston Sued Him For a Large
Sum Realized Years Ago from
the Sale of Bric-a-Brac.

MR. FOXWELL CANNOT BE LOCATED.

Disappears After Locking Up His Valuable
Furniture—One of Tamsen's Men
Gets "Rattled" and Seizes
the Hotel Majestic.

Captain C. Leighton Foxwell is president of the Anglo-American Irrigation Company, with offices at No. 59 Broadway, and lives with his wife in a suite of eight rooms on the first floor of the Hotel Majestic. The furniture of the rooms is owned by the Foxwells and cost \$110,000. At present it is being guarded by two deputy sheriffs to prevent removal or sale, the officers having an attachment for it issued last Friday by Justice Bookman, of the Supreme Court, on the complaint of Mrs. Mattie Winston, wife of Samuel Winston, of No. 121 West Seventy-seventh street.

The story leading up to the granting of the application for an attachment covers a period of ten years. In 1886 Mrs. Winston, who was Mrs. Mattie Whitney, the widow of a member of the well known Whitney family, of Washington, D. C., desired to dispose of some bric-a-brac and paintings that had been purchased at a cost of \$50,000. Many of the articles were from the Tulleries sale of Paris, and were bought at fabulous prices.

Captain C. Leighton Foxwell was at that time in Chicago doing a general brokerage business. He learned of Mrs. Whitney's intention to dispose of her collection and according to the plaintiff's sworn statement went to Washington and explained that Chicago was the place to dispose of art treasures and rare bric-a-brac. Mrs. Whitney had the goods shipped to Chicago and turned over to Foxwell. She then paid a visit to Chicago herself to see how the sale was progressing.

Foxwell said things were slow at the time, but succeeded in selling to Nathaniel Jones, of Chicago, two Hogarth plaques for \$150. He also sold Mrs. Potter Palmer a "Godolphin" dessert set from the Tulleries sale for \$200. The money collected from these two sales, less 10 per cent commission, was turned over to Mrs. Whitney. A painting entitled "Cosy Corner" brought \$500, and Mrs. Whitney claims that Foxwell borrowed \$250 of this.

Mrs. Whitney returned to Washington and heard several times from Foxwell that the articles had not been sold. Then she failed to get any answer to her letters in regard to her property. She wrote to C. H. McConnell, brother of W. A. McConnell, the theatrical manager, and learned from him that Foxwell was not in Chicago.

In her affidavit she states she learned that he was a fugitive from justice for having absconded or attempted to dispose of furniture that he did not own.

Mr. McConnell's letter to her is appended to the application for an attachment. It states that while Mr. McConnell was in California he sent word to Foxwell to dispose of a marble belonging to him, and Foxwell explained to him when he met him months later that he had sold it and would settle the next day. The next day Foxwell's son went to Mr. McConnell and told him the marble was at a well-known store subject to his order.

Mr. McConnell called for it, and says he found it had been sold to the firm having possession of it.

After seeing Foxwell in Chicago and leaving him with her property, Mrs. Winston claims she did not see him until 1891, when she met him on Broadway in this city. Foxwell seemed to be doing well. His first wife had died, and he had married Mrs. Nevins, a wealthy widow of Chicago. He was in business on Broadway, and declared that he was ready to settle.

He told Mrs. Winston that if she would make out a list of the articles at the lowest cash value she would take for them he would pay the money. She made out a bill for \$11,083, but received nothing.

She states that she was almost penniless and wanted some settlement, but could get none, although he gave her \$3 and paid her gas bill of \$8.37. He gave her \$25 later, and finally gave her checks amounting to \$175.

For some time Halre & Steele, attorneys for Mrs. Winston, have been trying to find something that Foxwell owned. A few days ago, in endeavoring to negotiate a loan of \$2,500, Foxwell made affidavit that the furniture in the rooms at the hotel was his. The order of attachment was then made out and given to the Sheriff. The attachment was for almost \$19,000, and was placed in the hands of Deputy Sheriff Henning.

Armed with the attachment, the deputy was ordered by Sheriff Tamsen to hurry up and get the property. The attachment was clear, and read for furniture in the rooms of Foxwell, and gave the numbers of the rooms, the location, and a description of the furniture they contained.

The attachment for \$19,000 was so much more than the deputy had been in the habit of serving that it "rattled" him. When he reached the hotel he was under the impression that it was the hotel he was to seize.

The uniformed attendant reluctantly swung back the big glass and brass door as the deputy walked up the stairs to the entrance. A boy in livery awaited him at the top of the stairs and inquired politely who he wished to see and asked him for his card. But Henning was busy, and as his feet sank an inch deep in the velvet carpets on the floor, he strode toward the desk without deigning to reply. When he reached the office he placed his hand on the counter, and said:

"I seize this hotel in the name of the Sheriff."

"What! How's who?" asked the key clerk, motioning to the house detective to stand by.

"I am a representative of the Sheriff of the County of New York, and I seize this hotel. I have an attachment," and the Deputy drew a wad of papers from his inside pockets, remarking, "No monkey business; everything in this hotel is in my possession."

No one had heard of any suits against the hotel, and the clerks were unable to account for an attachment. For half an hour Tamsen's deputy was the absolute boss of the establishment. Then communication was established with the lawyers, the hotel proprietors and others, with the result that the deputy was shown his writ covered nothing but Foxwell's personal property in the hotel.

Apologies followed, and the hotel people good-naturedly excused the blunder of Mr. Tamsen's representative.

The tip, however, had been carried to the Foxwell apartments, and when Deputy Sheriff Henning reached them they were locked. Mr. Foxwell had left for a few days' business trip, or had gone to Lakewood, N. J., to spend a few days. Two deputies were placed outside the door. Several times they have held consultations about breaking in the doors. Justice Bookman has been appealed to for such an order, but says his order at present covers every possibility.

The Sheriff is taking legal advice on the subject, and is liable at any time to forcibly enter the rooms.

Some invited spectators

Secretary Hagerman

Dunton the defendant

Dunton and invited guests in court.

F. W. Dunton regarded the charge of grand larceny preferred against him by his former business associate, Mr. Hagerman, as a joke. He sent out 200 printed invitations to friends to be present in Magistrate Crane's court when his preliminary examination was held. Many of his friends were present, but the Magistrate turned them all out.

that only limited accommodations could be secured in the Court House the number was cut down to two hundred. The cards were unlike any other invitations sent out this season at any rate. They read as follows:

George E. Hagerman, vs. Frederick W. Dunton. Charge: Grand larceny (felony). Dear Sir—You are invited to be present in Justice Crane's court room, Centre street, New York City, at 2 o'clock, on the afternoon of March 9, 1896, when my examination will take place. Respectfully,

FREDERICK W. DUNTON.

Frederick W. Dunton, who sent out the invitations has been banker, broker, speculator and millionaire. He has a host of friends in Long Island, where he built up and wonderfully improved three towns—Dunton, Morris Park and Hollis, each of which he founded. Dunton's friends will not believe that he is guilty of stealing \$20,000, as is charged by his former partner, George E. Hagerman. It was for this reason, perhaps, that there was a quick response to the invitations.

If Dunton had given an "at home" at Hollis he could not have gathered together more admirers than there were in Magistrate Crane's rooms at 2 o'clock. The place was crowded.

Among the honored guests present were: Under Sheriff William C. Baker, of Queens County; ex-Judge Isaac M. Kellogg, of Jamaica; President Charles E. Twombly, of the Jamaica Board of Trustees; and Messrs. John H. Eldert, Jamaica; George J. Goetz, Hollis; William P. Dooley, Springfield; August Immig, Baldwin's; Isaac C. Henderson, New York City and New Jersey cities. The cards were sent two days ago. It was at first intended to issue at least a thousand invitations, but when it was found

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